

PARENT COUNCIL OF RIVER HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

Attendance: Heather O'Reilly, Karla Tweten, Nicole Sehn, Amy Stevens, Dayna Maloy, Jessica Schutte, Caitlin Gomke, Rick Massini, Ashley Spitz, Diane Cartier, Wendy Weiss, Tanis Richter, Amanda Hobson, Jamie Swain

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Heather O'Reilly.
2. Treaty Land Acknowledgement - The video from Grade 5 & 6 Writing Pursuit was shown.
3. Teacher Presentation - Elaine Willock- Grade 1
Division 1 students (grades 1-3) follow the University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI) program for their approach to literacy. As per their website, <https://ufli.education.ufl.edu/foundations/toolbox/>, the UFLI Foundations is "an explicit and systematic program that teaches students the foundational skills necessary for proficient reading." The focus for grade one is segmenting words, replacing sounds via changing consonants, encoding and decoding words. These skills can be great to practice at home with struggling readers. Kids are really buying into the UFLI program. This year's grade one group is the first that has entered the year with a full year of UFLI Kindergarten program complete. It has many fundamental components that teach base learning, and can be complimented well with big ideas and great literature. There is a Home Support section on the website (see above). The Alphabet Unit Resources show all google slides/powerpoints and lessons for at home. UFLI Foundations Home Practice breaks down simple lessons that can be utilized at home. There are a total of 128 lessons UFLI grade one program.
4. Approval of Minutes - Caitlin made a motion to adopt the Parent Council (PC) minutes from the meeting held on October 16, 2024. The motion was seconded by Dayna. Minutes adopted as distributed. Quorum verified.
5. Reports from school and council:
 - a. School Administration Team - Wendy Weiss and Diane Cartier
 - i. Academy and Pursuits:
 1. Academy Adjustments - Students will only be out of the building on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Friday programming has been cancelled. Please note, there will be no academy days scheduled in during the week before the Christmas break.
 2. Pursuits
 - a. The first session is wrapping up and December 12 will be the last day for the same. An Open House has been scheduled for the afternoon of December 3rd for students to showcase what they have been learning in their respective pursuits. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to come in and see what has been happening in all

areas, i.e. Culinary Arts, Fine Arts, etc. The Performing Arts students, led by Mrs. Reininger, will be performing in a play.

- b. Courageous Minds Pursuit - Wendy and Diane are leading this pursuit. It promotes critical thinking, thinking outside the box, collaboration, etc. They have been teaching students chess utilizing the website www.chesskid.com. So far, 142 kids signed up for a special chess account. Students are able to play games against each other through the program or play against the computer. As the weather becomes colder, RH will create a Chess Club lead by Mrs. Thorne. Sam Montoya, a member from the Medicine Hat Chess Club, will be coming to help build and support the same.

- ii. PD Day - the next PD day is scheduled for Friday, December 13. Parent Council has agreed to provide treats/baking for the staff for this day.
- iii. Last Day of School Prior to Break - December 20th will be a half day only with students dismissed at 12:00 pm. Students are welcome to wear their pajamas and a pancake breakfast will be provided by the staff.
- iv. Student-Led Conferences - Conferences for both ELP and Kindergarten are scheduled for next week.
- v. Food Drive - All food donations will be collected tomorrow. Both the Halloween Dance donations and the school donations have been combined. Classes have estimated the weight and top four closest guesses will get extra recess time.
- vi. Student Fundraiser - One of our grade four students is currently in Calgary at the Children's Hospital. The school will be holding a bake sale with items donated by families for students to purchase next week. There is also a GoFundMe page circulating, to gather donations, for anyone that may be interested in helping out.

b. Co-Chairs - Karla Tweten and Heather O'Reilly

- i. Division Council of Council Meeting - The next meeting is scheduled for December 12th and anyone is welcome to attend. See the link below for past and current agenda and/or meeting minutes:
<https://www.mhpsd.ca/division-council-of-school-councils>
- ii. Facebook Group Name - Heather is looking into changing the procedure to change the our Facebook group name from River Heights School Parent Council, to prevent a mixup a school group in Ontario of the same name. This will be tabled until January.
- iii. Outdoor Classroom - Wendy indicated there is some wear and tear in the outdoor classroom and would be grateful if someone could come and take a look. There are currently some missing and broken blocks. Wendy will

look further into the matter and see about an estimate and when repairs could possibly be done, likely Spring.

- iv. Edsby - The banner is working well. There has been positive feedback from parents about showcasing information.
- v. Parent Feedback/Concern - Heather received feedback/concern from a parent looking for more information regarding PC finances and how fundraising dollars are spent. Discussion followed. To clarify, PC does not fundraise or hold accounts. All fundraising is conducted and accounts held by the River Heights School & Community Association (RHSCA). All members of the school community are automatically members of Parent Council and also eligible for membership in the RHSCA. Membership entitles each member to receive communication, including minutes, agendas, monthly and yearly financial documents and participate, by discussion and vote, in how fundraising proceeds are distributed. To receive these benefits, a membership form must be completed. Anyone interested in joining the RHSCA is welcome to reach out via the group Facebook page. Wendy indicated the RH Monthly Newsletter showcases the numerous things that both PC and RHSCA do and how the school benefits from any money received, i.e. grade one field trip, a project, an activity, etc. Nicole added these activities are also highlighted in the pictures and summaries provided. Rick suggested that it might be beneficial to add "Sponsored by" to some of the pictures, explanations, etc.

6. Report from committees and council representatives:

a. RHSCA

- i. Fundraising - Karla Tweten and Heather O'Reilly
 - 1. Kernels - This fundraiser has now wrapped up.
 - 2. Mixing Spoon - This fundraiser is ongoing and will be available until November 20th.
- ii. Hot Lunch - Nicole Sehn and Jamie Swain
 - 1. Upcoming Dates
 - a. November 22 - Argo's
 - b. November 29 - McDonalds
 - c. December 6 - Taco Time
 - d. December 12 - Pizza 73
 - e. December 20 - Dairy Queen
 - 2. December 20th - Since this is a half day, we will look into moving it to the 19th.
 - 3. Hot Lunch Schedule - Hot lunch offerings for January - June will be posted to Munch-a-Lunch before students return to school in January.

4. A reminder that the “Donate a Lunch” option will change to donations towards the Nutrition Program in the new year.
 - b. Halloween Dance - Follow Up
There has been positive feedback from both the admin team and school community regarding the same.
 - c. Winter Village - Karla Tweten
Preparations are well underway. Committees have been established, classroom activities have been settled and shopping has begun! We are still in need of volunteers for both set up/clean up and for manning the food/beverage and raffle areas. Donations for the No Peek Room (gifts for parents), can be brought to the school anytime now. Tara will connect with volunteers.
7. New Business
 - a. Next Meeting - In-Person Meeting (Staff Room):
 - i. No meeting in December.
 - ii. Wednesday, January 22, 2025 @ 7:00 pm
8. Meeting Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.